



EPIDEMIOLOGY

SKIN CANCER INCIDENCE IN LATVIA 2007-2017: COMPARISON WITH ESTONIA AND LITHUANIA.

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Introduction: Both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) are the most common types of cancer. The incidence rates keep increasing every year worldwide. Between Northern European countries Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania demonstrate the lowest incidence but one of the highest mortality rates for malignant melanoma.

Objectives: To compare skin cancer (Malignant Melanoma and NMSC) incidence and mortality rates among three Baltic States.

Materials and methods: Data from The Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDPC) of Latvia were analyzed from year 2007 to 2017 and compared with corresponding data in Estonia (National Institute for Health Development) in 2007-2015 and Lithuania (Lithuanian Cancer Registry, National Cancer Institute) in 2007-2013.

Results: Incidence of melanoma has increased from 6.9 in 2007 to 11.8 in 2017 per 100 000 inhabitants in Latvia, from 11.2 in 2007 to 20.69 in 2015 in Estonia and from 8.2 in 2007 to 10.5 in 2013. Incidence of NMSC has increased from 42.2 to 75.3 in Latvia, from 67.7 to 108.85 in Estonia and from 67.0 to 94.4 in Lithuania. The number of newly diagnosed skin cancer cases before the age of 50 is increasing in all three countries.

Conclusions: The highest skin cancer incidence is in Estonia. There has been a tendency of more melanoma cases for younger people comparing to previous years. The number of newly diagnosed cases of cutaneous melanoma and other skin cancers keeps increasing in all of the Baltic States. In Estonia there has been a larger increase for newly discovered melanoma cases, in Lithuania the increase has been larger for NMSC, but in Latvia both skin cancers have increased proportionally.

